

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 9 and 17 are amended. Support for amended claims can be found, for example, in ¶[0023] of the specification. No new matter is added.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Entry of this Amendment is requested is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendment: 1) placed the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; 2) do not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of final rejected claims; and 3) placed the application in better form for appeal, if any appeal is necessary. Entry of this Amendment is, thus, respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Cherrington et al. (hereinafter “Cherrington”), U.S. Patent No. 6,070,155 in view of Melick et al. (hereinafter “Melick”), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0047283 A1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Cherrington and Melick, singly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, “the receipt inspection reporting data is processed via multi-layers for review and approval before being reported”, as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17.

Cherrington discloses an integrated, highly automated analysis system that employs a technician terminal for displaying a plurality of inspection screens, and for entering inspection results. The technician terminal generates an inspection report after the inspection results have been inputted (abstract). However, Cherrington does not disclose or even

mention that the inspection report is processed via multi-layers for review and approval before being reported, as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17.

With respect to Melick, Applicants submit that Melick discloses a system and method for identifying, recording, storing and retrieving material handling equipment records and certifications at a centralized location [¶0045]. However, Melick fails to disclose or even mention that the data recorded is processed via multi-layers for review and approval before being reported, as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17.

As an example embodiment of the present invention, after an inspection is performed, receipt inspection reporting (RIR) and related data are issued setting forth the specific problems associated with shipment including, for example, damage to the parts, shipped and missing parts, and/or documentation. The RIRs are then transmitted and/or reports generated based upon the RIRs which may include a multi-layer process wherein reports are issued and approved, then forwarded to other departments for review and approval before finally being reported. The reports and RIR information are then used to solve the problems and/or defects and may include attempts to provide quality improvement in the future (e.g., new packing procedures).

Accordingly, Cherrington and Melick, singly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, “the receipt inspection reporting data is processed via multi-layers for review and approval before being reported” as recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Cherrington and Melick, singly or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the features recited in independent claims 1, 5, 9 and 17. Claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-16 and 18-20, which depend from the independent claims are likewise distinguished over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-20 in connection with the present Application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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